

INSTRUCTIONS FOR FILING A CIVIL ACTION FOR VIOLATION OF CIVIL RIGHTS (BIVENS ACTION)

Pursuant to <u>Bivens v. Six Unknown Named Agents of Federal Bureau of Narcotics</u>, 403 U.S. 388 (1971), a plaintiff may bring a civil rights suit against federal officials in their individual capacity for damages caused by constitutional torts under color of their authority.

Do NOT use this form to apply for a writ of habeas corpus or to challenge the sentence you received in federal court. Separate forms are available for these actions. The Clerk of Court can send you a copy upon request, or one should be available in the law library of your institution.

THE RIGHT COURT AND THE RIGHT DEFENDANTS

You may file your complaint in the United States District Court for the Northern District of West Virginia only if one or more of the defendants is located in the Northern District, or if the events of which you complain occurred in the Northern District. File complaints against state personnel under 42 U.S.C. § 1983. File complaints against federal personnel with this Bivens Action form. **Do NOT use 42 U.S.C. § 1983 to apply for a writ of habeas corpus or to challenge the sentence you received in state or federal court.**

EXHAUSTION

You may not bring an action challenging prison conditions until you have exhausted available administrative remedies, including any grievance system. See 42 U.S.C. Section 1997e(a).

SCREENING/DISMISSAL

The Court is required to screen your complaint and to dismiss your case at any time if it determines the following:

- 1. You failed to exhaust all administrative remedies; or
- 2. Your case is frivolous, or malicious, or fails to state a claim on which relief may be granted, or seeks money from a defendant who is immune from such relief; or
- 3. You are requesting to file your case without paying the filing fee and your allegation of poverty is untrue.

THREE-DISMISSAL RULE

If you have, while incarcerated, brought a civil action or appeal in federal court three or more times in the past that was dismissed because it was (1) frivolous, or (2) malicious, or (3) failed to state a claim on which relief may be granted, you cannot bring a new civil action or appeal a judgment in a civil action in forma pauperis. The only exception to this is if you are in "imminent danger of serious physical injury." See 28 U.S. C. Section 1915(g).

COMPENSATORY DAMAGES

If your case is allowed to proceed and you are awarded compensatory damages against a federal officer, before payment of any compensatory damages, the government will attempt to notify victims of the crime for which you were convicted, because you must first pay all pending restitution orders before any part of the award goes to you.

BASIC GUIDELINES

When filing forms and documents with the Court, follow these guidelines:

- -complete all forms as thoroughly as possible
- -use letter size paper only (81/2 x 11)
- -sign all documents
- -send the original and one copy for each named defendant
- -do not use staples
- -do not use pencil: use black or blue pens only
- -do not bind documents
- -write only on the fronts of documents, do not write on the backs of documents

FORMS

To file a civil rights action, you must use the forms provided by the Court, and submit either (a) Complaint and filing fee of \$350.00 to be paid by certified check or money order, OR (b) Complaint and In Forma Pauperis forms, which include: Application for Leave to Proceed Without Prepayment of Fees form, Consent to Collection of Fees form, and the Prisoner Trust Account Report form. Directions for filing a complaint are listed below and all necessary forms are included. Please read all of the following instructions carefully before completing **ANY** of the attached forms.

THE COMPLAINT (Attachment A)

- 1. Instructions for Completing the Complaint Form:
 - a. You should submit one original copy and two copies for the Court, plus one copy of the complaint for each defendant you name. <u>For example</u>, if you are naming two defendants, you would submit to the Clerk of Court the following:
 - 1. The original complaint for filing;
 - 2. One copy for each named defendant.

Keep one additional copy of the complaint for your records. If you do not retain a copy of your complaint and later request a copy from the Court, you will be required to pay a copying fee of \$0.50 per page.

- b. All complaint forms and copies must be identical. All information must be identical. Do not submit forms from other districts.
- c. Do not write on the back of the complaint forms. If you need more space, use additional sheets of paper. Your complaint and all other pleadings/documents must be legibly handwritten or typed. You may submit attachments, exhibits, or motions with the complaint. Please provide sufficient copies of the attachments for each required copy of the complaint. These copies may be handwritten or typed. The Clerk does not provide copies unless a fee of \$0.50 per page is paid in advance.
- d. TITLE OF THE ACTION: In the complaint, "the title of the action: (your name), Plaintiff v. (names of people you are suing), Defendant)" should include the names of all parties. See Rule 10(a), Federal Rules of Civil Procedure.
- e. DEFENDANTS: You should provide the Clerk of Court with the complete name and address of each defendant. If the first name is unknown, provide an initial. Otherwise, the Clerk cannot prepare a summons for issuance of service of process by the Marshal. See Rule 4 of the Federal Rules of Civil

Procedure.

- f. STATEMENT OF CLAIM: You are required to give facts regarding your grievance. THIS COMPLAINT SHOULD NOT CONTAIN LEGAL ARGUMENTS OR CITATIONS.
- g. RELIEF REQUESTED: State what you want. Do not make legal arguments.
- h. VERIFICATION: You should make sure that all answers are true and correct. You must verify or certify the correctness of the contents of the complaint. You verify or certify your answers by signing the complaint on p. 10.
- i. Note: under RULE 11, Federal Rules of Civil Procedure: only the signature of a <u>pro se</u> party on pleadings will be acceptable to the Court.
- j. INSTRUCTIONS FOR A COMPLAINT WITH MORE THAN ONE PLAINTIFF: If you and any other plaintiff(s) have the same claims, events, and defendants to be stated in your complaint, each plaintiff should file a separate complaint. Each plaintiff is responsible for the \$350.00 filing fee unless each plaintiff is granted the right to proceed without prepayment of fees by the Court.

FILING FEE (Attachments B, C, and D)

When you bring a civil action in federal court, you must pay the full amount of the filing fee (\$350.00) or apply to proceed without payment. If you have the funds to pay the filing fee, send a money order payable to Clerk, U.S. District Court in the amount of \$350.00.

If you cannot pay the full fee at the time of filing, you must apply to proceed without prepayment of fees. To file an application to proceed to proceed without prepayment of fees, you must submit the following forms: Application for Leave to Proceed Without Prepayment of Fees form (Attachment B), Consent to Collection of Fees form (Attachment C), and the Prisoner Trust Account Report (Attachment D) with ledger sheets from your prisoner trust account which reflect your account's activity for the past six months. Failure to submit all of these forms may result in dismissal of your complaint.

In Forma Pauperis Procedures

After receiving your complaint, the Court will assess and collect an initial partial filing fee of the greater of the following:

- 1. 20% of the average monthly deposits to your prisoner account for the past six months; or
- 2. 20% of the average monthly balance in your prisoner account for the past six months.

After paying this initial partial fee, you must pay 20% of the preceding month's income received in your prisoner's account. The agency having custody of you will send these payments to the Clerk of Court when your prisoner account has more than \$10.00 in it, until the full filing fee is paid. See 28 U.S.C. Section 1915(b). The full fee will be collected even if the Court dismisses the case because it is frivolous or malicious, fails to state a claim on which relief may be granted, or seeks money damages against a defendant who is immune from such relief. See 28 U.S.C. Section 1915(e)(2).

See below additional important instructions regarding your in forma pauperis documents:

- 1. You must verify or certify the correctness of the contents of the above-referenced documents. You should make sure that all answers are true and correct.
- 2. Be sure to include two identical copies of each of the forms listed above with the original ones when you submit them and your complaint to the Clerk. These copies may be handwritten or typed. The Clerk does not provide copies unless a fee of \$0.50 per page is paid.

CONSENT TO TRIAL BY MAGISTRATE JUDGE

In accordance with the provision of 28 U.S.C. Section 636(c), and Fed. R. Civ. P. 73, you are notified that a United States Magistrate Judge of this district is available to conduct any and all proceedings in this case including a jury or non-jury trial and to enter the final order in this case. However, exercise of this jurisdiction by a magistrate judge is permitted only if all parties voluntarily consent. If you consent to having this matter tried by a magistrate judge, you need to complete the form for NOTICE, CONSENT, AND ORDER OF REFERENCE (Attachment E).

After completing the complaint and all applicable forms, proofread them to ensure compliance with all instructions. Return the completed forms and the correct number of copies to the appropriate point of holding court:

Clerk, U.S. District Court Clerk, U.S. District Court

PO Box 2857 PO Box 471

Clarksburg, WV 26302 Wheeling, WV 26003

Clerk, U.S. District Court

Clerk, U.S. District Court

217 W. King St., Room 102 PO Box 1518 Martinsburg, WV 25401 Elkins, WV 26241

FILING DOCUMENTS AFTER SERVICE HAS BEEN ISSUED

Documents filed with the Clerk of Court after the service has been issued on the defendants must be filed with the Court in writing in the form of a pleading, e. g.: motion, notice, memorandum, etcetera.

You must serve the defendant(s) or defense counsel with a copy of every pleading, letter, or other document submitted for consideration by the Court. The original of all documents filed with the Clerk should have a "Certificate of Service" (Attachment F).

We may return any document submitted to the Clerk of Court for filing that does not bear a proper Certificate of Service. You must sign all instruments (pleadings, letters, motions, or other documents) pertaining to your case and must state the civil action number (case number). All documents and correspondence submitted to the Clerk of Court should be on letter-sized paper ($8 \frac{1}{2} \times 11$ inches). Please <u>do not</u> use legal-size ($8 \frac{1}{2} \times 14$ inches) paper.

IMPORTANT ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- 1. IF YOU DO NOT KEEP THE COURT ADVISED OF YOUR CURRENT ADDRESS, YOUR CASE MAY BE DISMISSED FOR WANT OF PROSECUTION.
- 2. It is improper to communicate directly with Judges or Magistrate Judges concerning matters that may become a subject in their Court.
- 3. It is improper for the Clerk, Judges, or Magistrate Judges to give legal advice to litigants.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation regarding these instructions.

AT THE DIRECTION OF THE COURT

<u>Cheryl Dean Riley, Clerk</u>
UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF WEST VIRGINIA

	ume of the plaintiff in this action	COMPLAINT
v.		Civil Action No.:(To be assigned by the Clerk of Court)
	full name of defendant(s) in this action litional defendants, list them on a separa	ate sheets of paper)
I. PARTIES		
In Item A bel	ow, place your name, inmate number, ar	nd address in the space provided.
A. Na	me of Plaintiff:	Inmate No.:
Address:		
	, place the full name of the defendant, h Use Item C for additional defendants,	is or her official position, and place of employment in the if any.
B.	Name of Defendant:	
	Position:	
	Place of Employment:	

	C. Add	itional D	efendants (provide the same information for each defendant as listed in Item B above):
 II.	PLACE	OF PRE	ESENT CONFINEMENT
	Name o	f Prison/	Institution:
	A.	Is this v	where the events concerning your complaint took place? Yes No
		If you a	nnswered "no", where did the events occur?
	В.	Is there	a prisoner grievance procedure in this institution? Yes No
	C.		r grievance procedure? Yes No
	D.	If your	answer is NO, explain why not:
	E.	grievan	answer is YES, what was the result at level one, level two, and level three (attach ces and responses):
III.		OUS LA	WSUITS
	A.		ou begun other lawsuits in state or federal court dealing with the same facts involved in this or otherwise related to your imprisonment? Yes No
	B.	-	answer to A is Yes, describe the lawsuit in the space below. If there is more than one lawsuit, e the additional lawsuits on another piece of paper using the same outline.
		1.	Parties to this previous lawsuit:
			Plaintiff(s):
			Defendant(s):
		2.	Court:
			(If federal court, name the district; if state court, name the county)
		3.	Docket Number:
		4.	Name of Judge(s) to whom case was assigned:
Dispos	sition:	5.	
r			(For example, was the case dismissed? Appealed? Pending?)
	lawsuit:	6.	Approximate date of filing
		7.	Approximate date of disposition:

IV. STATEMENT OF CLAIM State here, as briefly as possible, the facts of your case. Describe what each defendant did to violate your constitutional rights. Include also the names of other persons involved, dates, and places. Do not give any legal arguments or cite any cases or statutes. If you intend to allege a number of related claims, number and set forth each claim in a separate paragraph. Use as much space as you need. Attach extra sheets of paper if necessary.

IV.	STATEMENT OF CLAIM - continued.

RELIEF		
State briefly and statutes.	d exactly what you want the Co	ourt to do for you. Make no legal arguments. Cite no
Signed this	day of	, 20
		Signature of Plaintiff
I declare un	der penalty of perjury tl	nat the foregoing is true and correct.
G. 1.1.		22
Signed this	day of	, 20
		Signature of Plaintiff

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

Northern District of West Virginia

Plaintiff,	APPLICATION TO PROCEED WITHOUT PREPAYMENT OF FEES AND AFFIDAVIT
V.	
	CASE NUMBER:
Defendant.	
Affidavit in Support of Motion	Instructions

1. For both you and your spouse estimate the average amount of money received from each of the following sources during the past 12 months. Adjust any amount that was received weekly, biweekly, quarterly, semiannually, or annually to show the monthly rate. Use gross amount, that is amounts before any deductions for taxes or otherwise.

Income Source	Average Monthly Amount during the past 12 months		Amount expected	next month
	You	Spouse	You	Spouse
Emplolyment	\$	\$	\$	\$
Self-Employment	\$	\$	\$	\$
Income from real property (such as rental income)	\$	\$	\$	\$
Interest and dividends	\$	\$	\$	\$
Gifts	\$	\$	\$	\$
Alimony	\$	\$	\$	\$

Child Support	\$	\$	\$	\$	
Retirement (such as social sec annuities, insurance)	eurity, pensions,	\$	\$	\$	
Disability (such as social secuinsurance payments)	rity, \$	\$	\$	\$	
Unemployment payments	\$	\$	\$	\$	
Public-Assistance (such as welfare)	\$	\$	\$	\$	
Other (specify):	\$	\$	\$	\$	
Total monthly income:	\$	\$	\$. \$	
2. List your employment histo	ory with most recent e	employer f	irst (Gross monthly pay is be	fore taxes or other deductions).	
Employer	Address		Dates of Employment	Gross Monthly Pay	
3. List your spouse's employs	ment history with mos	st recent ei	mployer first (Gross monthly	pay is before taxes or other deduc	tions).
4. How much cash do you an Below, state any money you o	nd your spouses have? or your spouse have in	\$ bank acco	ounts or in any other financia	linstitution	
Financial Institution	Type of Account		Amount you have	Amount your spouse has	
			\$	\$	
			\$	\$	
			\$	\$	

If you are a prisoner, you must attach a statement certified by the appropriate institutional officer showing all receipts, expenditures, and balances during the last six months in your institutional accounts. If you have multiple accounts, perhaps because you have been in multiple institutions, attach one certified statement of each account.

Make & year:	5. List the a.	ssets, and their values, whic	h you own or your spouse ov	wns. Do not list clothing and ordinary household furnishings.
Motor vehicle #2 (Value) Other assets (Value) Other assets (Value) Other assets (Value) Make & year:	Home	(Value)	Other real estate (Value)	Motor vehicle #1 (Value)
Motor vehicle #2 (Value) Other assets (Value) Other assets (Value) Other assets (Value) Other assets (Value) Make & year: Model:				Make & year:
Make & year:				Model:
Make & year:				Registration #:
Model: Registration #: 6. State every person, business, or organization owing you or your spouse money, and the amount owed. Person owing you or your spouse money Amount owed to you Amount owed to your spouse Amount owed to your spouse Amount owed to your spouse 7. State the persons who rely on you or your spouse for support. Initials Relationship Age 8. Estimate the average monthly expenses of you and your family. Show separately the amounts paid by your spouse. Adjust any payments that are made weekly, biweekly, quarterly, semi-annually or annually to show the monthly rate. You Your Spouse Rent or home mortgage payment (include lot \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$ \$	Motor vehicl	le #2 (Value)	Other assets (Value)	Other assets (Value)
Registration #:	Make & year	r:		
6. State every person, business, or organization owing you or your spouse money, and the amount owed. Amount owed to you	Model:			
Amount owed to you Amount owed to you Amount owed to your spouse money 7. State the persons who rely on you or your spouse for support. Initials Relationship Age 8. Estimate the average monthly expenses of you and your family. Show separately the amounts paid by your spouse. Adjust any payments that are made weekly, biweekly, quarterly, semi-annually or annually to show the monthly rate. You Your Spouse Rent or home mortgage payment (include lot \$	Registration	#:		
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Initials Relationship Age 8. Estimate the average monthly expenses of you and your family. Show separately the amounts paid by your spouse. Adjust any payments that are made weekly, biweekly, quarterly, semi-annually or annually to show the monthly rate. You Your Spouse Rent or home mortgage payment (include lot \$	7. State the	persons who rely on you or	r your spouse for support.	
You Your Spouse Rent or home mortgage payment (include lot rented for mobile home) Are real estate taxed included?	Initials		Relationship	Age
You Your Spouse Rent or home mortgage payment (include lot rented for mobile home) Are real estate taxed included?		_		
You Your Spouse Rent or home mortgage payment (include lot rented for mobile home) Are real estate taxed included?				<u> </u>
You Your Spouse Rent or home mortgage payment (include lot rented for mobile home) Are real estate taxed included?				
You Your Spouse Rent or home mortgage payment (include lot rented for mobile home) Are real estate taxed included?				
Rent or home mortgage payment (include lot \$				
Are real estate taxed included?			You	Your Spouse
Is property insurance included?			de lot \$	<u> </u>
telephone) \$ \$ Home maintenance (repairs and upkeep) \$ \$ Food \$ \$				
Food \$				<u> </u>
	Home maint	enance (repairs and upkeep	\$	<u> </u>
Clothing \$ \$	Food		\$	<u> </u>
	Clothing		\$	<u> </u>

Laundry and dry cleaning	\$	\$
Medical and dental expenses	\$	\$
Transportation (not including motor vehicle payment)	\$	\$
Recreation, entertainment, newspapers, magazines, etc.	\$	\$
Insurance (not deducted from wages or included in mortgage payments)	\$	\$
Homeowner's or renter's	\$	\$
Life	\$	\$
Health	\$	\$
Motor Vehicle	\$	\$
Other:	\$	\$
Taxes (not deducted from wages or included in mortgage payments) (specify):	\$	\$
Motor Vehicle	\$	\$
Credit Card (name):	\$	\$
Department Store (name):	\$	\$
	\$	\$
Other:	\$	\$
Alimony, maintenance, and support paid to other Regular expenses for operation of business,	\$	\$
profession, or farm (attach detailed statement	\$	\$
Other (specify):	\$	\$
Total monthly expenses:	\$	\$
9. Do you expect any major changes to your r months?	nonthly income or exper	nses or in your assets or liabilities during the next 12
☐ Yes ☐ No If yes, describe on an atta	ached sheet	

10. Have you paid-or will you be paying- an attorney any money f completion of this form? \square Yes \square No	or services in connection with this case including the
If yes, how much? \$	
If yes, state the attorney's name, address, and telephone number:	
11. Have you paid-or will you be paying-anyone other than an attain connection with this case, including the completion of this form:	
□ Yes □ No	
If yes, how much? \$	
If yes, state the person's name, address, and telephone number:	
12. Provide any other information that will help explain why you of	cannot pay the docket fees for your appeal.

	TED STATES DISTRICT COU PRTHERN DISTRICT OF WE			
(Full Name and	d Prison Number of Plaintiff)			
V.		Civil	l Action No(To be Assigned by Clerk o	of Court)
	fficial Titles of Each Defendant)	CTION OF FEES F	FROM TRUST ACCOUNT	
		l pay to the Clerk of C	hereby consent for the appropria Court for the United States District Court, following choices:	
(a) OR	The average monthly deposits of the complaint.	to my account for the	e six month period immediately preceding	the filing
(b)	The average monthly balance of the complaint.	in my account for the	e six month period immediately preceding	the filing
month, an amo	unt equal to 20 percent of each n	nonth's income. Eac	llect from my account, on a continuing be ch time the amount in the account reache fice in Elkins, West Virginia, until such ti	es \$10.00,
	ecuting this document, I also autiesed by the United States District		a continuing basis of any additional fees, ern District of West Virginia.	, costs, or
Date		Signa	nature of Plaintiff	

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF WEST VIRGINIA OFFICE OF THE CLERK P.O. Box 471 WHEELING, WV 26003

PRISONER TRUST ACCOUNT REPORT

Name: Inmate #:			
TO: Trust Officer			
FROM: Cheryl Dean Riley, Clerk	, U. S. District Court, Northern District	of West Virginia	
RE: Civil Action No.	·		
institution in which the prisoner wa		n must obtain from the Trust Officer of each onths, a certified copy of the prisoner's trust aint.	
	e supporting ledger sheets, and return the eets MUST be attached for the Court	tese documents to the prisoner for mailing to	
Date complaint to be filed:			
Account Balance at time of filing of	complaint:	_	
AVERAGE MONTHLY DEPOSI	TS during the six months prior to the fil	ling of the civil action:	
AVERAGE MONTHLY BALAN	CE during the six months prior to the fil	ling of the civil action:	
		ances in the applicant's trust account for the ant records maintained in the ordinary course	
Date	Authorized Signature	Title	

f Reference-Exercise of Jurisdiction by a Uni	ted States Magistrate Judge
NITED STATES DISTRICT COURT	
THERN DISTRICT OF WEST VIRGINIA	
NOTICE, CONSENT, AND O EXERCISE OF JURISDICTIO MAGISTRATE JUDGE	
Plaintiff,	
Case Number:	
<u> </u>	
Defendant.	
BILITY OF A UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE TO EXERCISE JURISDICTION	UDGE
R. Civ. P. 73, you are notified that a United States in this case including a jury or non-jury triastrate judge is, however, permitted only if all	al, and to order the entry of a final
onsequences, withhold your consent, but this we yearty withholds consent, the identity of the rate judge or to the district judge to whom the	parties consenting or withholding
a magistrate judge shall be taken directly to the ppeal from any other judgment of this district	
F JURISDICTION BY A UNITED STATES MAGI	STRATE JUDGE
S.C. §636(c), and Fed. R. Civ. P. 73, the part Il proceedings in this case, including the trial, of	
Signatures	Date
Opped of Defending	
ed to order the entry of judgment in accordance wi	United States th 28 U.S.C. §636(c), and Fed. R.
United States District Judge	
	NOTICE, CONSENT, AND O EXERCISE OF JURISDICTION MAGISTRATE JUDGE Plaintiff, Case Number: Defendant. LITY OF A UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE J TO EXERCISE JURISDICTION C. Civ. P. 73, you are notified that a United States in this case including a jury or non-jury triastrate judge is, however, permitted only if all insequences, withhold your consent, but this way party withholds consent, the identity of the late judge or to the district judge to whom the late judge or to the district judge to whom the late judge or to the district judge to whom the late judge or to the district judge to whom the late judge or any other judgment of this district of JURISDICTION BY A UNITED STATES MAGISTATES MAGISTATES MAGISTATES IN C. §636(c), and Fed. R. Civ. P. 73, the part of proceedings in this case, including the trial, of Signatures ORDER OF REFERENCE d to

NOTE: RETURN THIS FORM TO THE CLERK OF COURT <u>ONLY IF</u> ALL PARTIES HAVE CONSENTED <u>ON THIS</u> FORM TO THE EXERCISE OF JURISDICTION BY A UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE.

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF WEST VIRGINIA v. Civil Action No.: **Certificate of Service** I, (your name here), appearing pro se, hereby certify that I have served the foregoing (title of document being sent) upon the defendant(s) by depositing true copies of the same in the United States mail, postage prepaid, upon the following counsel of record for the defendant(s) on (insert date here): (List name and address of counsel for defendant(s)) (sign your name)